20. Both sides agreed to further enhance the pace of economic development between the two countries by extending support for the preparation and execution of mega projects, including infrastructure development such as road, rail and hydel-power projects. As a gesture of goodwill of the Government and people of India, Government of India agreed to implement the Naumure Hydro-electric Project on Rapti River.

21. In view of the shortages felt in Nepal for the essential commodities, Government of India will remove bans on the export of rice, wheat, maize, sugar and sucrose for quantities agreed with Nepal. Government of India will also provide a credit of up to Rs. 150 crores to Government of Nepal for the next three months to ensure uninterrupted POL supplies to Nepal.

22. The Prime Minister of Nepal extended an invitation to the Prime Minister of India to pay an official visit to Nepal at an early date. The Prime Minister of India accepted it with pleasure. The date of the visit will be decided through the diplomatic channel.

New Delhi,
September 17, 2008

Discussion on Kosi dam with Nepal

680. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken up the matter of breach of Kosi dam with Government of Nepal and proposes to set up a judicial commission of inquiry into the matter;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether Government has sent any team of experts to Nepal to discuss further course of action on the repair of the Kosi dam; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) Yes. The matter was raised with the Government of Nepal, including at the highest political level during the recent visit of Prime Minister of Nepal to India from September 14-18, 2008. The Government of Nepal has assured its full cooperation in resolving this problem. The matter was also discussed in the meeting of the Joint Commission on Water Resources (JCWR) held in Kathmandu, Nepal from September 29-October 1, 2008. The JCWR has decided to empower the existing inter-governmental "Joint Committee on Kosi and Gandak Project" with financial and functional authority to identify the issues, formulate and approve annual action plan and oversee the implementation.

Government do not propose to set up a joint inter-governmental judicial commission.

Several teams of experts from the Central and State Government of Bihar have visited Nepal in recent months to determine the further course of action on the repair and restoration of the Kosi embankment. A High Level Expert Team, led by Chairman, Central Water Commission is undertaking an inspection of the flood-affected structures of the Kosi breach site to suggest further measures and long-term solutions.